

In Re: Application of: Presby, David, W.
An Endcap for a Corrugated Conduit

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (currently amended) ~~The end cap of claim 1 wherein each of said plurality of tabs comprises:~~ An end cap for corrugated conduit comprising:

a solid end piece;

a circumferential skirt formed around said end piece and having a plurality of solid connection tabs spaced circumferentially around said circumferential skirt; each of said plurality of connection tabs having a proximal end, integral with and hingedly attached to, said circumferential skirt; and a tab leg beginning at said proximal end and extending to a triangular wedge at a free distal end of said tab.

Claim 3 (original) The end cap of claim 2 wherein said circumferential skirt comprises:
a plurality of openings in each of which is located one of said plurality of tabs, and within each of which each said tab is freely swingable by its said proximal hingedly attached end.

Claim 4 (original) The end cap of claim 2 wherein each said connection tab comprises:
a horizontal wedge leg that protrudes out from said tab leg at an angle of about 90 deg.;
and
a diagonal wedge leg that protrudes out from said tab leg distal to said horizontal wedge leg at an angle of about 30-60 deg. and meets said horizontal wedge leg to form a wedge protruding from said tab leg, wherein as said end cap is pressed onto the end of a corrugated

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conduit, each said wedge engages and lodges in a valley of a corrugated conduit to prevent said end cap from dislodging from the end of a conduit.

Claim 5 (original) The end cap of claim 4 wherein said diagonal wedge leg protrudes at an angle of about 45 deg. from said tab leg.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The end cap of claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein said end cap is formed from a material chosen from the group consisting of: polypropylene, polyethylene, polymers, ~~metal~~, rubber, and fibrous material.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended) ~~The end cap of claim 8 wherein~~ An end cap for a corrugated conduit comprising:

A solid end piece having at least one conduit-receiving hole formed therein, said at least one conduit-receiving hole having a continuous ring attached circumferentially around said at least one conduit-receiving hole, and a plurality of fingers integral to and hingedly attached, at an inner end of each said finger, to said continuous ring and protruding therefrom in towards the center opening of said at least one conduit-receiving hole, said inner end of each of said fingers is separated from the adjacent said finger by spacer holes which enhance the flexibility and tear resistance of said fingers.

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Claim 11 (currently amended) The end cap of claim ~~7~~ 10 wherein said end piece comprises at least one means for creating a strengthened surface formed integrally thereon.

Claim 12 (currently amended) The end cap of claim ~~1~~ 2 wherein said circumferential skirt comprises at least one means for creating a strengthened surface formed integrally thereon.

Claim 13 (original) The end cap of claim 11 wherein said at least one means for creating a strengthened surface is formed of the same material as said end piece.

Claim 14 (original) The end cap of claim 12 wherein said at least one means for creating a strengthened surface is formed of the same material as said circumferential skirt.

Claim 15 (currently amended) The end cap of claim 11 wherein said at least one means for creating a strengthened surface is disposed or located as desired between or around each said at least one conduit-receiving hole to enhance the strength of said end piece.

Claim 16 (original) The end cap of claim 12 wherein said at least one means for creating a strengthened surface is disposed or located as desired about the location of each said opening containing said each said connection tab.

Claim 17 (currently amended) ~~The end cap of claim 11 wherein~~ An end cap for a corrugated conduit comprising:

A solid end piece having at least one conduit-receiving hole formed therein, and at least one means for creating a strengthened surface formed integrally thereon; said at least one means for creating a strengthened surface forms forming an apex-flattened triangle with a base flush

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with and integrally formed with an outer surface of said end piece, and wherein two opposing angled rib legs that rise from said outer surface of said end piece and are joined by a flattened top area to form said apex-flattened triangle; and

a circumferential skirt formed around said end piece and having a plurality of solid connection tabs spaced circumferentially around said circumferential skirt.

Claim 18 (original) The end cap of claim 17 wherein an angle formed by said two opposing angled rib legs is about 60 degrees.

Claim 19 (currently amended) The end cap of claim ~~7~~ 10 wherein said end piece is arcuately shaped, curving convexly away from an open end of a corrugated conduit that is capped by said end cap.

Claim 20 (original) The end cap of claim 19 wherein a vertical axis through the apex of said convex curvature of said arcuate shape of said end piece and the location on said arcuate end piece of each said at least one hole determines an entry angle from said vertical axis, of a conduit inserted into or through said at least one hole, and also determines the relative position of the attached conduit wherein said entry angle thereby determines how full a capped conduit is permitted to become before material contained therein flows out of said capped conduit into the attached conduit.

Claim 21 (new) The end cap of claim 10 having a flexible outer end of each said finger, opposite said inner end, flexible as a pipe or conduit is inserted into said at least one conduit-receiving hole.